nigro punctati. *Testa* ovalis vel subpentagono-ovata, subconvexa, interruptè carinata, margine ferè integro, vel posticè crenulato, ad latera revoluto, anticè rotundato, et levitèr emarginato. *Scuta dorsalia* glabra, concentricè sulcata, fusco-viridescentia, nigro concentricè zonata: *vertebralia* obtusè carinata, in junioribus quasi tuberculata; primum pentagonum; secundum, tertium et quartum hexagona; quintum irregulariter hexagonum, interdùm subpentagonum, margine posteriore latum, rotundatum: *costalia* plana, declivia, primum quadrilaterale, figuræ irregularis, margine superiore angustiore, inferiore lato, rotundato; secundum et tertium pentagono-quadrata, angulis inferioribus rectis; quartum rhomboideum, parvum: *marginalia* quadrata, lateralia subrevoluta: *scutum nuchale* quadratum, latum. *Sternum* latum, anticè subtruncatum, posticè emarginatum, flavescens, scutis singulis lineis et maculis fuscis concentricè notatis: *scuta jugalia* triangularia: *humeralia* quadrilatera, introrsùm angustata: *pectoralia* oblongè quadrata, extrorsùm profundè sinuata: *abdominalia* reliquis majora, quadrata: *femoralia* magna, trapezoidea: *analia* rhomboidea.

Var. *α*. scuta dorsalia habet omninò nigra, profundè sulcata, margine toto revoluto; et sternum pallidè fuscum, plagis subradiantibus. In Var. *β*. (Tab. *b*.) scutum verticale, collum, pedes, cauda atque testa nigri sunt. In Var. *γ*. (Tab. *c*.) caput, collum, pedes et cutis tota, pallidè virides, maculis, lineis et punctis nigris notati. In Var. *δ*. testa rufescens, zonis fuscis; et sternum pallidè castaneum. In Var. *ε*. testa unicolor est, sordidè olivacea, sulcis scutorum obsoletis.

In junioribus testa oblongè subpentagona, carinâ vertebrali altiore, abruptè interruptâ, et sulcis scutorum profundioribus. In pullis testa suprà pallidè fusca, sternum albidum, nigro minutissimè punctatum.

Scutis dorsalibus amotis, testa ossea colorem flavum exhibet, zonis clarè nigris.

Testæ osseæ mensura.

	unc.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	8	5
Latitudo	6	2
Longitudo sterni	7	5
Altitudo	3	2

This species appears to have received the name of *concentrica* from Dr. Shaw, in the same year in which Latreille and Daudin applied to it that of

centrata. I have retained the denomination of our English naturalist, sanctioned as it is already by Mr. Gray in his Synopsis. The appellation "*Tortue à lignes concentriques*," under which Bosc described it, is as well rendered by one as by the other of the Latin specific names above mentioned. Its identity with *Testudo palustris* of Gmelin is too doubtful to authorize the application of that term, though we have the authority of Schœpff, of Leconte, and of the Prince of Musignano in its favour.

This Tortoise is far from uninteresting, whether regarded as to its zoological characters, its remarkable and numerous varieties, or its excellence as a nutritive and delicious article of food. The concentric furrows and coloured markings of its plates at once distinguish it from all other species; but its characters vary so much, not only in different specimens, but even in the same individual at different periods of life, that I think it will not be destitute of utility to notice some of the most remarkable of these variations.

When the young one first leaves the egg, it is of a light brown colour, without concentric lines, each vertebral plate having a rounded tubercle, which forms the centre of its future carina. At this period the head and the skin of the neck and limbs are uniformly brown, without any of the spots which characterize the older specimens; and the sternum is of a brownish white colour, dotted over the greater part of its surface with minute points of brown or blackish. When about half grown the concentric furrows are very deep and sharp, the colour generally deep brown or black, and the carina on each vertebral plate high and tubercular. As it advances in age and size, the carina is less prominent, the sulci become softened, and the plates, less deeply coloured and more transparent, exhibit the dark concentric zones by which the species is so well distinguished. On stripping off the plates, the pattern is seen distinct and vivid on the surface of the bone beneath, consisting of black zones strongly marked out upon a yellow ground. It was from a specimen in this state that Shaw's figure in the General Zoology was taken, though he was ignorant of the cause of this peculiar appearance.

I have not thought it necessary to distinguish every minute variation of colour which we see assumed by this very variable species. I have, however, endeavoured to characterize the most striking and remarkable varieties. The